

Amendment A

Inventor(s) Name: PFEIFFER

Attorney Docket no.: 964-1722

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 15 on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

A substantially straight or planar foam form block 30 having at least one substantially planer rectangular segment is shown in FIG. 2 having a pair of parallel opposing foam panels 32 retained in spaced relationship to each other by a plurality of ties 10. As can be seen from FIGS. 3 and 4, the plurality of ties extends transversely between opposing inner surfaces 34 of the opposing panels 32. As can further be seen from FIGS. 3 and 4, the opposing flanges 12 and trusses 16 of each tie 10 are substantially retainably encapsulated within respective opposing foam panels 32 such that each flange 12 is seated inwardly from the outer surface 36 of the panel 32 within which it is encapsulated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

An array of alternating, equi-dimensional square teeth 38 and square sockets 40 are formed in opposing horizontal longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78, as is best shown in FIG. 5. In a preferred embodiment, the array consists of two longitudinal rows of alternating teeth 38 and sockets 40, the rows being offset from each other by the distance of one side of one tooth 38. In addition, as best seen in Fig. 2, the teeth 38 associated with one of the opposed horizontal longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78 are vertically aligned with the sockets

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40 associated with the other of the opposed horizontal longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78; and the sockets 40 associated with one of the opposed horizontal longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78 are vertically aligned with the teeth 38 associated with the other of the opposed horizontal longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78. It is also important to recognize that the pair of panels 32 or 72 and 78 are positioned relative to each other such that the teeth 38 associated with the row of alternating teeth 38 and sockets 40 located adjacent the outer surface 36 of one of the pair of panels 32 forming the block 30, or adjacent the outer surface 76 or 82 of one of the pair of panels 72 or 78 forming the block 70, are horizontally aligned with the sockets 40 associated with the row of alternating teeth and sockets located adjacent the outer surface of the other of the pair of panels forming blocks 30 and 70, and the teeth 38 associated with the row of alternating teeth 38 and sockets 40 located adjacent the inner surface 34 of one of the pair of panels 32 forming the block 30, or adjacent the inner surface 74 or 80 of one of the pair of panels 72 or 78 forming the block 70, are horizontally aligned with the sockets 40 associated with the row of alternating teeth and sockets located adjacent the inner surface of the other of the pair of panels forming blocks 30 and 70. Employing such a tooth 38 and socket 40 configuration along opposing longitudinal edges of a given panel 32, 72 or 78, yields a panel 32, 72 or 78 having opposing longitudinal edges capable of engageably receiving either opposing longitudinal edge of an adjacent, similarly configured, panel 32, 72 or 78 of a straight block 30 or a corner block 70 in stacked fashion. As a result, straight or corner blocks 30 and 70 employing panels 32, 72 and 78 having opposing longitudinal edges of this configuration can be engageably stacked upon and below adjacent blocks 30 and 70 of

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substantially the same configuration, regardless of the vertical and/or horizontal orientation of the panels 32, 72 and 78 around their respective longitudinal axes. Thus, in the event that it is desirable to cut a planar or corner block 30 and 70 in two pieces/half vertically or horizontally, both resultant pieces/halves of the block 30 and 70 are usable, thereby reducing the waste generated by prior art block designs. This engaging means thereby reduces the overall construction cost and time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

As with the opposing longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78, the opposing vertical ends of the panels 32, 72 and 78 have an array of teeth 42 and sockets 44 formed therein to engageably receive either opposing vertical end of similarly configured panels 32, 72 and 78, thereby yielding blocks 30 and 70 that can engageably receive horizontally adjacent blocks 30 and 70, regardless of the horizontal orientation of their vertical ends. In a preferred embodiment, the array consists of two vertical columns of alternating teeth 42 and sockets 44 offset from each other by the length of one tooth 42. Here again, the location of the teeth 42 associated with one of the vertical longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78 correspond with the location of the sockets 44 associated with the other of the vertical longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78; and the location of the sockets 44 associated with one of the vertical longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 74 correspond with the location of the teeth 42 associated with the other of the vertical longitudinal edges of the panels 32, 72 and 78.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 21 on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

A corner block 70 is shown in FIG. 7 including an inner corner panel 72 having an inner surface 74 and an outer surface 76, an outer corner panel 78 having an inner surface 80 and an outer surface 82, and a plurality of ties 10 having opposing flange ends 12, each opposing flange 12 being encapsulated within a respective panel 72 and 78, thereby retaining the inner surfaces 74 and 80 of the corner panels 72 and 78, respectively, in opposing fashion. The corner block 70 includes planar rectangular segments which are disposed at approximately 90° to each other in an angular relationship. As illustrated in FIGS. 7 and 8, the flange members 52 and web members 58 of the corner tie 50 are completely encapsulated within the outer corner panel 78 at its corner, offset vertically from the central horizontal axis of the block 70. The concrete-engaging member 60 extends from the web 58 inwardly beyond the inner surface 80 of the outer block 78, enabling the concrete-engaging member 60 to be completely encapsulated by concrete when it is poured between the corner panels 72 and 78.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In the field, pre-constructed planar or straight blocks 30 and corner blocks 70 are shipped to a construction site that has been prepared in readiness for a concrete wall to be constructed thereon. Due to the tooth 38 and socket 40 design formed along opposing longitudinal edges of

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the straight blocks 30 and corner blocks 70, the tooth 42 and socket 44 design formed in the opposing vertical ends of the straight blocks 30 and corner blocks 70, and the functionally vertical reversible design of the rebar-retaining seats 20 of the ties 10, the straight blocks 30 and corner blocks 70 are functionally vertically reversible and horizontally reversible. That is to say that the planar blocks 30 and corner blocks 70 can engageably receive a planar block 30 or a corner block 70 there below, thereupon, or adjacent its opposing vertical ends regardless of vertical orientation of its opposing longitudinal edges and regardless of horizontal orientation of its opposing vertical ends. More specifically, the top longitudinal edges of the panels forming blocks 30 and 70 will removably engage both the top and bottom longitudinal edges of the panels forming another similarly constructed block 30 and/or 70, and the bottom longitudinal edges of the panels forming blocks 30 and 70 will removably engage both the top and bottom longitudinal edges of the panels forming another similarly constructed block 30 and/or 70. Furthermore, rebar rods may be retainably placed within rebar seats 20 of a straight block 30 or a corner block 70 regardless of vertical orientation of the longitudinal edges of the blocks 30 and 70 and regardless of whether the blocks 30 and 70 have been laterally cut in half. This versatility of the straight blocks 30 and corner blocks 70 provides an ICFS that can be more rapidly constructed than prior art designs, thereby appreciably reducing labor costs.